

## Earthquake in Chile

Situation as of 23 March 2010

PAHO/WHO Representative Office in Chile

### 1. General situation

- In recent days, moderate and mild aftershocks have occurred, mainly in the BíoBío, Araucanía, Maule, O'Higgins, and Valparaiso regions.
- According to the official information to date, a total of 156,962 people in the O'Higgins region have been affected, and of these, 1,442 are living in the 35 existing shelters. A total of 19,001 dwellings have been totally destroyed in the region, with another 22,943 suffering major damage, and 41,981 minor damage. According to information from the Carabineers and Investigative Police, 50 people died. In addition, three people are still missing in the Pichilemu Commune, two of them children, and another person in the Puertecillo sector in Navidad Commune.

People affected	156,962
Deaths	50
Dwellings destroyed	19,001
Houses with major damage	22,943
Houses with minor damage	41,981
Shelters	35

- The water supply in the BíoBío region will not return to normal for two months. However, the Essbío Co. stated that before this weekend, all residents should have water supply, albeit intermittent.
- Media reports decry the "serious deficiencies in the government's *preparedness* to respond to major natural disasters" and the "lack of concern in the different administrations about creating a response system adequate to

the seismic and volcanic reality of our nation.” These reports also criticize the lack of a *response plan*.

- **Distribution of food rations.** Since 1 March, the Social Protection Network for Students (JUNAEB) has distributed over 9,380,656 food rations in some 73 communes in the Valparaíso, Metropolitan, O’Higgins, Maule, and Biobío regions. The distribution of hot food in several places at once is accomplished by transferring prepared food in trucks with the Hot Box system, which allows the temperature of the rations to be maintained until they reach the victims.

Table. Distribution of Rations by population

People served in regions affected by the disaster  
 Date Valparaíso Metropolitan O’Higgins Maule Biobío Araucanía No. persons Variation Cum. No. daily rations Cum. No. rations

Cuadro de Distribución de Raciones por Personas											
Fecha	Personas atendidas en regiones afectadas por catástrofe						N° personas	Variación	Acumulado	N° raciones	
	Valparaíso	Metropolitana	O’Higgins	Maule	Bio Bio	Araucanía				diaras	acumuladas
01-mar	-	-	3.600	7.500	9.810	-	20.910		20.910	45.649	
02-mar	194	1.040	11.900	29.700	32.820	1.102	76.756	267%	97.666	167.568	213.217
03-mar	227	21.540	5.160	35.480	40.150	1.102	103.659	35%	201.325	226.300	393.868
04-mar	333	21.040	11.900	41.744	54.540	1.102	130.659	26%	331.984	285.245	511.545
05-mar	393	22.540	15.515	56.257	89.970	1.102	185.777	42%	517.761	405.574	690.819
06-mar	393	22.540	16.235	61.850	118.060	1.102	220.180	19%	737.941	480.680	1.171.499
07-mar	393	22.540	16.180	59.515	125.900	560	225.088	2%	963.029	491.395	1.662.893
08-mar	443	32.590	15.573	51.395	145.800	1.000	246.801	10%	1.209.830	538.797	2.201.690
09-mar	463	35.190	13.588	55.790	146.990	595	252.616	2%	1.462.446	551.492	2.753.182
10-mar	490	33.540	13.472	54.707	154.790		256.999	2%	1.719.445	561.060	3.314.242
11-mar	463	32.540	13.273	58.418	160.160		264.854	3%	1.984.299	578.209	3.892.451
12-mar	528	32.540	12.144	57.537	185.140		287.889	9%	2.272.188	628.497	4.520.948
13-mar	528	32.540	11.571	50.332	182.223		277.194	-4%	2.549.382	605.149	5.126.097
14-mar	527	32.540	11.571	50.392	184.683		279.713	1%	2.829.095	610.648	5.736.745
15-mar	528	32.540	11.321	43.631	183.426		271.446	-3%	3.100.541	592.600	6.329.344
16-mar	535	15.238	8.265	46.677	164.722		235.437	-13%	3.335.978	513.988	6.843.332
17-mar	535	15.238	6.888	43.822	156.012		222.495	-5%	3.558.473	485.734	7.329.066
18-mar	521	15.238	6.863	45.243	156.113		223.978	1%	3.782.451	488.971	7.818.038
19-mar	521	15.238	5.743	48.978	148.252		218.732	-2%	4.001.183	477.519	8.295.557
20-mar	521	15.238	5.986	48.978	117.824		188.547	-14%	4.189.730	411.621	8.707.178
21-mar	521	13.238	6.656	49.518	111.506		181.439	-4%	4.371.169	396.104	9.103.281
22-mar	524	15.238	5.533	8.009	97.750		127.054	-30%	4.498.223	277.374	9.380.656

## 2. Health conditions and health care network

On 22 March, the Ministry of Health delivered a report on the situation of the health care network following the earthquake and tsunami of 27 February. This assessment revealed a total of 130 hospitals with some type of damage. The Minister of Health, Jaime Mañalich, accompanied by the Undersecretaries Public Health and Health Care Networks, respectively, explained a diagram of the health system and offered details from the census of damages to these

facilities, which found 54 hospitals with minor difficulties, 8 requiring major repairs, and 17 that must be completely rebuilt.

He estimated the cost of the disaster at US\$ 2,700 million, stressing that the solutions proposed to meet the demand for care during the crisis are field hospitals and modular hospitals, in addition to prefabricated modern hospitals and permanent hospitals built as major construction projects. He noted that the President has declared that the reconstruction should be completed during this mandate.

In reference to the shortage of hospital beds in the sector, the Secretary of State said, “we hope to offer a tender for beds to the private sector, through FONASA, under known and favorable conditions, so that the Centralized Unit for Bed Management can have a daily census to access.”

The following summarizes the official information currently available on the situation of the health care network:

**Hospital Network in the regions affected by the earthquake: 130 Hospitals**

Valparaiso Region	21 hospitals
Metropolitan Region	31 hospitals
O’Higgins Region	15 hospitals
Maule Region	13 hospitals
Biobío Region	28 hospitals
Araucanía Region	22 hospitals

**Census of damages**

71% OF THE COUNTRY’S TOTAL HOSPITAL NETWORK

Operating without problems:	<b>51</b>
Requiring repairs:	<b>54</b>
Structural repairs:	<b>08</b>

**Proposed solutions and timetable**

**Field hospital:** from today, duration approx.. 6 months.

<b>Modular hospitals:</b>	within one month, duration 1 to 2 years
<b>Modern hospitals:</b>	starting in 3 months, duration 10 years, minimum
<b>Traditional hospitals:</b>	starting in the next 6 months (construction time approx. 3 to 4 years per hospital)

The Minister of Health declared that the *Hospital Gustavo Fricke*, located in Viña del Mar, is being strengthened as “a referral center for complex diseases from throughout the region, the metropolitan region, and other points in the country that have been critically affected by the earthquake.” He noted that the “anchor” facility will be a critical point in the “functional macro-network,” and that it will receive patients from the area “between the Region Five and Valdivia, in order to fulfill the guarantees issued by the Explicit Health Guarantees Regime (known by the Spanish acronym *AUGE*).”

The MINSAL is conducting epidemiological surveillance in the affected regions. The most recent reports do not describe outbreaks or alerts of epidemiological importance related to the earthquake.

#### **4. PAHO/WHO Response**

- PAHO is providing support to the Plan of Action of MINSAL’s National Coordinating Committee for Mental Health in Emergencies and Disasters following the earthquake and tsunami of 27 February 2010 as part of the Health Care in Emergencies and Disasters component, aimed at reducing psychosocial risks among the population exposed to emergencies and disasters. It includes the following components: diagnostic assessment; support to health services for the implementation of contingency measures; preparation and dissemination of guidelines for dealing with the crisis for health teams and the groups especially affected; preparation and dissemination of key media messages on dealing with the crisis; contact with the different sectors to join forces to protect the mental health of staff members, victims, and children in particular; coordination with the health response for over-the-phone psychological support; census and organization of volunteers.
- PAHO/WHO-Ministry of Health short-term cooperation activities in this area are: 1) Technical assistance from an expert for the design and contents of a workshop to train trainers on protecting mental health in emergencies and disasters and managing post-traumatic stress. 2) Technical assistance to hold a workshop for trainers on protecting mental health in emergencies and disasters and managing post-traumatic stress, the “face-to-face” part. 3) Support for development of the “face-to-face” part of the workshop for trainers on protecting mental health in emergencies and disasters and managing post-traumatic stress, mobilization of 15 participants from the areas affected by the earthquake. 4) Review of the proposal for monitoring, evaluation, and systematization of post earthquake-tsunami 2010 interventions by an outside expert.
- The assessment of structural and nonstructural damage conducted with PAHO support was analyzed with MINSAL professionals to determine the specific support required for rehabilitating the affected health facilities.
- In the environmental health sector, MINSAL is providing support for the execution of the Plan of Action for the Response to the Impact of the Earthquake, which includes components on water storage and use; improving the monitoring of

drinking water quality; strengthening the surveillance of environmental risk factors (excreta, solid waste--including hospital waste) and rubble; temporary sanitation measures for excreta disposal; food safety; vector prevention and control; promoting hygiene; environmental health information.

- Support is being provided to the National Directorate for Mass Communication for the development of a Communication and Social Mobilization Plan for the Earthquake Response, which includes the components of environmental health, mental health, organization, etc.
- PAHO is coordinating activities with the Primary Care Physicians Group to provide technical assistance for strengthening primary health care teams.
- The Organization is coordinating with the Chilean-Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry AG (CCJ) for the transfer of financial resources and equipment donations.
- The PAHO/WHO Representative is on an interagency assessment mission for implementation of CERF projects in priority municipios. Moreover, PAHO professionals are participating in an interagency technical mission to establish direct contact with local authorities in the targeted communes and to identify sources of support for local governments in coordinating their emergency plans, within the context of implementing the CERF funds.
- The Organization is strengthening the technical team of the Representative Office in Chile with regional experts in coordination, communication, water and sanitation, and administration.
- PAHO/WHO will continue to coordinate with the Ministry of Health in the implementation of activities to mitigate the health impact of the earthquake in affected communities and populations.